

**CLARK COUNTY
CLEAN WATER COMMISSION
Meeting Notes**

Wednesday, March 6, 2002
6:00 – 9:00 PM
Clark County Public Works Department
Conference Room
4700 NE 78th Street
Vancouver, Washington

Call to Order

Roll Call:

Clark County Clean Water Commission Members Present

Willie Bourlet, Cal Ek, Dana Kemper, Mary Martin, Susan Rasmussen, Judy Schramm, and Don Steinke

Clark County Clean Water Commission Members Absent

Robbie Agard, Art Stubbs

Clark County Public Works Staff

Pete Capell, Kelli Frost, Sam Giese, Cindy Meats, Earl Rowell, Jeff Schnabel, and Rod Swanson

City of Vancouver Staff

Cory Samia

Audience

Dan Clark, and Virginia vanBreeman

Introduction

The members of the Clark County Clean Water Commission, Clark County staff, and guests were introduced. Chair, Commissioner Kemper, then called the meeting to order.

Agenda and material review

The material for tonight's meeting include:

1. 3/6/02 Clark County Clean Water Commission meeting Agenda;
2. 2/6/02 Clark County Clean Water Commission meeting notes;
3. Clark County Clean Water Commission, Member list;
4. Clark County Clean Water Commission, Address/e-mail list;
5. Revised Clark County Clean Water Commission Bylaws;
6. Article from the Columbian dated 2/27/02, Watershed steward classes offered;
7. Watershed Stewards Program 2001 Summary of Activities;
8. Watershed Stewards Program 2001 Annual Report;
9. Clean Water Commission Stormwater Cleanup Recognition Program;
10. USGS, Selected Findings and Current Perspectives on Urban and Rural Water Quality by the National Water-Quality Assessment Program;
11. Lacamas Lake Restoration Program, Water Year 2000 and Water Year 2001 Monitoring Summary Packet;
and
12. 13 Month Budget Print-out.

Dana Kemper introduced Judy Schramm, who was chosen by the Board of County Commissioners to serve on the Clean Water Commission, to the other Clark County Clean Water Commissioners, staff and audience members.

2/6/02 notes

The notes from the 2/6/02 Clark County Clean Water Commission meeting were approved as written, pending correction of the spelling of the word Benthic on page 2.

Updates/Communications from the public/media/agencies

Mr. Rowell referred to item number 6, an article from the Columbian, regarding the Watershed Stewards class being offered starting March 6, 2002 and lasting ten weeks.

Ms. Meats confirmed that there are 18 new members signed up for the spring Watershed Stewards class.

Mr. Ek noted that the article never mentions who is funding the Watershed Steward Program. Reference should be made that the clean water fee is partially paying for it.

Public Input

Mrs. Rasmussen and Mr. Bourlet talked about their visit to Mr. Gillette's property. Mr. Gillette is concerned about the effects of county road runoff draining onto his property.

Mrs. Rasmussen: His property has taken the road scum for 41 years and now he has to pay for it. He wants to be treated fair and not charged a clean water fee.

Mr. Ek: Mr. Gillette has found another spin for not paying his bill. This type of case could be used to challenge the fee in rural areas.

Mr. Bourlet: This problem exists all over in North County.

Mr. Kemper: County staff needs to follow up on this matter. We need to find a way to correct it, and other similar problems in the county area.

Capital Improvements Subcommittee Update

Mr. Giese provided a handout, Clean Water Program Capital Improvement Program Project Information Sheet, which describes two pilot projects and other ongoing programs. Pilot project number one being the Salmon Creek/Highway 99 Treatment Facility. Pilot project number two being the Brentwood Infiltration Project. Other ongoing programs consist of small stormwater facility retrofits, rain drain retrofits, drywell retrofits and riparian restoration.

Mr. Giese: We would like to present these programs to the Board of County Commissioners and have the programs included as a line item in the next budget cycle

Mr. Bourlet proposed **Motion: 2002-0306-03: Move that this Commission support what Sam is doing and support his efforts to the BOCC.**

Motion passed by all present Clean Water Commission members

Mr. Ek expressed his concern over the short time frame noting that it usually takes time to get permits.

Mr. Giese: This is not a new development, so there are fewer permits to get. We are confident that we will be able to meet deadlines.

Susan: Can you explain the Brentwood project?

Mr. Giese: The existing residential neighborhood, which was built in the 1970's, is lacking a stormwater management facility. The Brentwood project would disconnect the stormdrain systems from the creeks, and infiltrate the flow back into the ground. This will assist in keeping pollutants out of the creek.

Mr. Giese informed the Clark County Clean Water Commissioners that the next Capital Improvements Subcommittee meeting would involve a field trip to various watersheds in the Clark County area. Mr. Steinke and Ms. vanBreeman expressed an interest in attending.

Education Update

Ms. Meats invited the Clark County Clean Water Commissioners to attend the Watershed Congress, Thursday April 11. Ms. Meats also invited a Clark County Clean Water Commissioner to participate as a facilitator at the Watershed Congress. Mr. Stubbs expressed interest in participating as a facilitator.

Mr. Bourlet asked for an e-mail to be sent out to the Commissioners to provide more details about the Watershed Congress and to remind them of the date it will be held.

Ms. Meats informed the Clark County Clean Water Commissioners that the spring session of the Watershed Stewards will have their first meeting tomorrow (Thursday) night. Eighteen people have signed up including Commissioner Judy Schramm.

Ms. Meats: Mr. Bock has been very busy attending various meetings to promote the Watershed Stewards Program. He is also continuing to build a relationship with the area newspapers. Recently there were two articles printed that generated good responses from public.

Mr. Bourlet: Is he doing any water testing in his class?

Ms. Meats: They receive an overview on water testing and they also have opportunities to participate in water testing as part of their community service projects.

Mrs. Rasmussen: The Master Composter Gardeners would like to get together to do a project.

Ms. Meats: Mr. Bock has been working with the Master Composter Gardeners and the Solid Waste Section of Environmental Services on a partnership project.

Ms. Meats mentioned that Clark County is in partnership with the Coalition for Clean Water and Streams, which provides a variety of advertising and awareness opportunities.

Ms. Meats: We are also in partnership with the City of Vancouver and the Parks Department in a project called Science in the Parks that will target Salmon creek, and Lewisville.

Ms. Meats: Introduced Cory Samia from the City of Vancouver, an educator at the Water Resources Education Center.

Ms. Samia started by describing her monitoring and testing program that was started with a grant from Hewlett Packard. The program works with teachers and their classes on how to monitor water. Some of the factors that they look at are land use, weather, and erosion. Data that is collected is entered into Nature Mapping in which anyone can access the database and look up information. The majority of the testing is done at level 1 though there are some level 2 data collected.

Mr. Kemper: How many students are involved?

Ms. Samia: There are close to 800 students involved in this program.

Mr. Ek: What is your source of funding?

Ms. Samia: The City of Vancouver and Metro Parks and Greenspaces provide funding. I have also received some grants, which provides additional funds.

Mr. Ek: Is the City of Vancouver's educational program driven by the NPDES permit?

Ms. Samia: No, I don't think our NPDES is applicable until 2004.

Mr. Kemper: What can this Commission do for you?

Ms. Samia: We could use monitoring equipment and technical expertise.

Monitoring Update

Lacamas 2001-2002 Program Summary

Mr. Schnabel talked about the Lacamas Lake Restoration Program in which during the last two years they were trying to determine how much phosphorus went into the lake. It was determined that the phosphorus lake concentration and loading have been reduced substantially, but not enough to change trophic state. The water clarity, algae community, and phosphorus concentration all indicate the lake remains eutrophic. A significant portion of the phosphorus and sediment entering the lake is retained.

Mrs. Rasmussen: How much money was dedicated to the clean up of this water body?

Mr. Schnabel: Over three million dollars.

Mr. Swanson talked about the active monitoring sites as shown on the display map.

Mr. Ek: I would like to see a smaller version of the active monitoring site map included in the clean water fee billing so people can see where monitoring is taking place.

Budget 2003 - 2004

Mr. Rowell handed out a copy of the thirteenth month budget report. Mr. Rowell asked the Clark County Clean Water Commissioners to begin thinking about 2003-2004 budget and to put together a list of priorities that can be discussed at upcoming meetings.

Adjourn

Mr. Kemper adjourned the Clean Water Commission meeting at 9:00 p.m.

In the future

April

- Monitoring
- CIP update
- Budget 2003-04
- Watershed Stewards

May

- Update of Education
- Budget 2003-04
- Tentative CWP Update to the BOCC

The next Clark County Clean Water Commission meeting will be held Wednesday, April 3, 2002.

Respectfully submitted by Kelli Frost

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